

## GOD IN NATURE.

Charles Kingsley, speaking of God in nature, says: "Not a cloud which fleets across the sky, not a clod of earth which crumbles under the frost, not a blade of grass which breaks through the snow in spring, not a dead leaf which falls to the earth in autumn, but is doing God's work and showing forth God's glory. Not a tiny insect, too small to be seen by human eyes without the help of a microscope, but is as fearfully and wonderfully made as you and me, and has its proper food, habitation, work appointed for it—and not in vain. Nothing is idle, nothing is wasted, nothing goes wrong in this wondrous world of God. The very scum upon the standing pool, which seems mere dirt and dust, is all alive, peopled by millions of creatures, each full of beauty, full of use, obeying laws of God too deep for us to do aught but dimly guess at them; and as men see deeper and deeper into the mystery of God's creation they find in the commonest thing about the wonder and glory, such as eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor hath it entered the heart of man to conceive, and can only say with the psalmist, 'O, Lord, Thy ways are infinite, Thy thoughts are very deep,' and confess that the grass beneath their feet, the clouds above their heads—aye, every worm beneath the sod and bird upon the bough do in very deed and truth bless the Lord who made them, praise Him, and magnify Him forever, not with words indeed, but with works; and say to man all day long, 'Go thou and do likewise.'"

### WHY AM I A CHURCHMAN ?

"On this rock I will build my Church." [S. Matt. xvi. 18].

"The Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved," or as R. V. "such as were being saved." [Acts ii. 47].

I am a Churchman—

- I. Because Christ founded One Visible Church to be here on earth, His representative, the continuation of His incarnate life as His Body; the home of His chosen people; the Guardian of His Truth and Word; the Dispenser of His Means of Grace; the Educator of elect souls for the Beatific Vision of God in heaven; and hereafter, His all-glorious Bride.
- II. Because "schism," or "division" in, or from, that One Body is *sin*.
- III. Because separation from the visible communion of the Body has almost invariably led, in course of years, to departure from the fullness of the Faith of the Gospel concerning the Divinity of our Lord.
- IV. Because the Church which we call the Church of England is part of that One Church which Christ founded upon His Apostles and Prophets, being lineally descended from it, as one visible organization, in unbroken continuity.
- V. Because the Church still holds "the faith once delivered to the saints," "whole and undefiled." *Whole*—in all its completeness, as distinguished from the broken and partial truths held by the schismatic bodies. *Undefiled*—without additions, free from the errors which the Church of

Rome has allowed to be added to the faith.

The above *fundamental* reasons, if they can be proved, as they undoubtedly can be, would of themselves be amply sufficient as an answer to the question "Why am I a Churchman?"

But another may be added—

VI. Because the Church maintains customs, and teaches her people in matters not necessarily *de fide* [i. e. essential to be believed for salvation] in strict accordance with the customs and the teaching of the primitive Church, as shown in Scripture and the writings of the early teachers of the Church.

In following Papers, proof will be given for each of the above reasons.

May the Holy Spirit, according to Christ's promise, "guide us into all the Truth."

## News from the Home-Field.

### Diocese of Nova Scotia.

Some little time ago in referring to the Ven. Archdeacon McMurray of Niagara, it was stated that he was the oldest ordained clergyman in the Dominion, with the exception of the Metropolitan of Canada. Your correspondent is mistaken, however, as this honor is claimed for this Diocese. The Rev. Dr. White of Shelburne, N. S., is believed to occupy this position, having been in Holy Orders sixty-two and one half years, and having been Rector of Shelburne for no less a period than *fifty-five and a half years*, and being still in Office and most highly esteemed wherever known.

### Londonderry.

This parish has sustained a heavy loss, in the burning of the church, which occurred on the night of Sept. 30th. Preparations are being made to rebuild at once; but as \$1200, at the least, are required in addition to the amount of insurance; and as, owing to the depression in the iron trade, the people here are very poor, rebuilding is a very serious undertaking.

Will the readers of the CHURCH GUARDIAN kindly remember us when making their thank-offerings, and send just *one dollar*? This amount from the head of each family even, would cheer our hearts; and enable us soon to have a church in which to meet for the worship of God; a blessing of which we are now deprived. Do dear Christian brethren give us a helping hand. And if you really cannot spare a dollar remember us in your prayers. Contributions can be sent to the Rector, Rev. W. J. Ancient, Londonderry, N. S.

### Avon Deanery.

The 58th session of the chapter of Avon Rural Deanery opened on the evening of the 13th inst., in St. Paul's Church, Rawdon, with shortened Evensong said by Rev. Chas. H. Fullerton, B. A., Incumbent of Falmouth, and addresses by the Ven. Archdeacon Jones, Rector of Windsor, on "Modern improvements in our church buildings, their advantages for the more reverent and proper performance of Divine worship;" the Rev. J. Moore C. Wade, M. A., Incumbent of Aylesford, on "Lay work in the church, its necessity and value;" the Rev. R. C.

Hind, M. A., Rector of Newport, on "The duties of the Baptized."

Besides the above clergymen, there were present the Rev. F. J. H. Axford, R. D., Rector of St. John Cornwallis, and the Rev. Jas. Spencer, Rector elect of the Parish.

On the following day at 11 o'clock the regular deanery service, Matins, Holy Communion and sermon, was preceded by the induction of the Rector to the parish. The mandate of induction was issued to the Rev. Rural Dean Axford, coupling with him the Ven. Archdeacon Jones and the Rev. K. C. Hind, who proceeded to perform this very solemn and impressive ceremony, after which Rev. J. M. C. Wade said Matins, the Rev. Rural Dean Axford being celebrant and preacher taking his text from 1 Cor. xi. 2. After dinner at the Rectory the clergy assembled for business. The opening office was said by the Dean. "The Form and Manner of ordering of Priests" was then read. Moved by Archdeacon Jones, seconded and passed that next session be held in the parish of St. John Cornwallis on January 12th and 13th.

Rural Dean Axford then read his paper on "Lay Baptism" in which he very elaborately dealt with the question. After some discussion it was moved by Mr. Wade seconded and passed that the paper be published in the "CHURCH GUARDIAN" newspaper.

A communication was received from the Rev. John Lockwood, Rector of Port Medway, respecting the insurance of church buildings which after being read was laid on the table for discussion at the next session of the Deanery. Meeting then adjourned.

Two services were held on the evening of the 14th, one at the parish church where after Evensong addresses were given by the Rev. Chas. Fullerton on "Home and Foreign Mission Work," and Rural Dean Axford on Confirmation; the other, at Stanley where Evensong being said by the Rev. R. C. Hind; Archdeacon Jones addressed an attentive congregation on "The Ministry of the Church from whence we receive it" and Rev. J. M. C. Wade on "Lay work its necessity and value," a repetition of the address given at the parish church. All the services were marked by the devotional bearing and careful attention of the congregation. The Offertories amounting to \$3.69 was devoted to the Board of Home Missions.

The thanks of the clergy are due to Mrs. Casey, Mrs. Gould Northrup, Mrs. Whalen and above all to Mrs. Spencer who provided for them so bountifully at the Rectory and we cannot conclude this report without giving to our esteemed brother of Newport his share of the praise for so kindly providing the means for our transit from Newport station to Rawdon and back as well as providing the necessaries of life by the way. We might also say that in passing through his parish we noticed many signs of improvement as a result of his indefatigable labours. Amongst others may be mentioned, that a mission room is being fitted up, which will supply a long felt want. The Rectory and grounds show signs of thrift and improvement; but what pleased us most was the smiling faces of all who met and greeted him by the way, showing their love for and appreciation of this hard-working parish priest.